

AMERICAN AND ENGLISH CAMPS, SAN JUAN ISLAND (NPS)

Friday Harbor vicinity

These sites are associated with the mid-19th-century quarrel between America and Britain concerning the water boundary between Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and the Oregon Territory. Events came to a head in 1859 when an American settler shot a British pig (a black boar, to be precise). Words were exchanged, armed forces of both sides faced off at San Juan Island, and the “Affair of the Pig” almost led to war. After skillful, if belated, negotiations, the two nations agreed to joint occupation, and for a dozen years both maintained armed forces at these two camps on San Juan Island. The 1871 Treaty of Washington finally provided for a peaceful settlement. At last, for the first time in the history of the United States, there was no boundary dispute with Great Britain.